



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL - CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

Minutes of the February Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in the Setanta Room, County Hall, Dundalk
on Wednesday, 8th February 2023 at 9:00am

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach - Cllr Pio Smith (nominated to stand in for Conor Keelan)

Members, Cllrs: Joanna Byrne
John Reilly
John Sheridan

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

Apologies, Cllrs: Conor Keelan (Cathaoirleach)
Liam Reilly

1. Nomination of Proxy Cathaoirleach by Resolution

In the absence of the Cathaoirleach, the Members by resolution adopted Cllr Pio Smith as Cathaoirleach of the CPG for the duration of the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th January 2023

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 4th January 2023 were

Proposed by: Cllr John Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr John Reilly

And resolved.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Council Meeting Agenda

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda including (but not exclusively):

- Members were reminded of their responsibility under S141 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended to report on the activities and operations of Bodies, Boards and Committees, **annually** or if so requested by resolution or Cathaoirleach. Director of Services Joe McGuinness advised that this gives other Members the opportunity to request information on committee activities.
- Members were also reminded of the S141 requirement to complete a quarterly return on attendances including a nil return, and that this is regularly audited by the Department.
- A Section 85 agreement with Dublin City Council to act on behalf of Louth County Council on provision of 80 Social Units under a public private partnership which requires the agreement of council.

- The CE is to provide a report on the warmly welcomed decision of the Department to pay some of Louth County Council's legacy land loans. The report will include proposals on how funds received will be spent.
- The Casual Vacancy of Cllr. Fiachra Mac Raghnaill which was notified to the Executive cannot be filled at the February meeting as the required legal 14-day notice period from the vacancy date following the Drogheda Municipal District meeting overruns the deadline to the date of the Council Meeting. The Vacancy will be filled by co-option of a same party member as the vacated party seat.
- In accordance with Louth County Council Standing Order 20(ii), Members recommended the Council accept a deputation from Comhairle na nÓg at the council meeting

4. Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Members considered the Community Grants as presented to them, and it was

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

5. To consider and recommend Conferences and Events

Members considered the Conferences and Events as presented to them, and it was

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

And approved to bring these to full Council for consideration.

6. Correspondence from AILG – Crime Prevention

Members discussed the document as put before them and it was agreed to invite the Louth Crime Prevention Officer to a separate meeting in committee to present on safety of Councillors.

7. Request from Uisce Éireann for dates for Workshops

Members were advised of a request for 3 suitable dates for Uisce Éireann (UÉ) to host an online workshop. Members expressed a preference for in person meetings with Uisce Éireann and were advised that this had been requested but UÉ would not agree to same. It was agreed to bring this back to their parties and revert back with suitable dates.

8. Members Communication Plan

Members are expected to log items through Sugar via the Elected Rep system in the first instance before raising unaddressed items at Municipal Districts.

It was confirmed that public lighting faults should be reported directly through the DeadSure App and not to Louth County Council.

A request was made for a portal to be developed to allow Members to submit expenses online which will be considered by a staff working group.

It was agreed that the apportionment of €960 petty cash could be paid to Members upfront in one payment at start of year going forward. As part payment had already been made in 2023 the difference would be deducted and rest will be organised to be paid out in one lump.

9. SPC Annual Work Programmes 2023

To receive report from SPC Chairs on the 2023 SPC work programme for review by the CPG.

Following a discussion on change of Directorate responsibilities resulting from the recent work force plan amalgamation, it was clarified that the SPC Scheme could not change as they were for the life of the council, so Directors may have to attend more than one SPC and SPCs may have more than one Director attending.

Cllr John Sheridan provided the annual plan for the Community and Quality of Life SPC, which intends to hold 4 meetings. The agreed intended main topic of each of the meetings is as follows:

Museum & Arts

LGBTQI+

Volunteerism

A presentation by Dáil na nÓg

Other SPC chair 2023 work programmes are expected at next meeting.

10. Any other business

The CE advised that correspondence is ongoing with Meath County Council to agree an issues paper on the Drogheda Local Area Plan (LAP) and a meeting with both Chief Executives and Senior Planning Staff is to be arranged. Meath have recently completed a joint LAP process with Kildare. The Dundalk LAP will follow the completion of Drogheda LAP.

As there was no other business the meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on:

Date: 8 March 2023

Cathaoirleach: A McKerr

Meetings Administrator: Grainne Suomey